LOW PLANT LOAD FACTOR AND HIGH TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LOSSES

2676. SHRI MULIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for low plant load factor and high transmission and distribution losses in the country;

(b) how these compare with some of the advanced countries; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase Plant Load Factor and to reduce transmission and distribution losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The main reasons for low Plant Load Factor in thermal power stations are, short supply of requisite quantity of coal, backing down of thermal units due to low system demand, fund constraints affecting timely availability of spares and other inputs, long time taken for bringing back the units after forced outages and planned maintenance. The reasons for high Transmission and Distribution losses are, inter alia, low investment in sub-transmission and distribution system, large-scale rural electrification programme involving long lines of LT network, low factor of operation, too many transformation stages, improper load management measures, pilferage and theft of energy.

(b) Performance of thermal power stations in India as well as other advanced Countries varies from station to station and depends upon age of the unit, availability of requisite quantity and quality of coal, maintenance practices system load condition, hydro-thermal mix in the State region and transmission constraints. Therefore, any comparison will be misleading. The average Transmission and Distribution losses in the country are of the order of around 23 per cent as against the TWD losses in other advanced countries of the world ranging between 6—11 per cent.

(c) Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of installed capacity include Renovation and Modernisation of old units, assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking plant betterment programme, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, training of operation and maintenance personnel and strengthening of transmission and distribution system. To enable power utilities to take proper measure in a planned way, comprehensive guidelines have been issued to the power utilities for reducing T&D losses. These include inter alia, conducting of energy audit for identifying the system elements responsible for excessive losses, installing capacitors to improve the voltage profile, preparation of system improvement schemes for strengthening and improvement of their transmission and distribution system, installin tamper-proof meter boxes to check theft of energy and setting up vigilance squads to detect cases of theft of energy. The theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence from August, 1986 under the provision of section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910. To motivate the State Electricity Boards and their employees to reduce T&D losses and to increase the energy generation in thermal power stations, separate incentive schemes in the form of cash awards|shields have been introduced.

AMOUNT PAYABLE BY HSEB TO NTPC

2677. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount outstanding for payment against the Haryana State Electricity Board to NTPC;

(b) whether the NTPC has decided to stop the supply of power to HSEB thereby plunging Haryana into darkness;